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Clatsop County Planning Dept.  
Gail Hendrickson

Re: Short Term Rentals

The message from Falcon Cove Beach Water District regarding SDR's was very important to be considered by the County Commissioners. I agree with their letter. I have lived here for 48 years and have seen the community changed not much by growth, but by allowing commercial activities in a rural area. Now designated as rural residential based on land use. No sidewalks, street lights, sewage systems, commercial allowed. These NW Counties are incapable of managing this kind of activity on rural lands because of the distances to the officials who should respond to complaints. Regardless of the many rules that counties come up with regarding SDR's to protect communities there is no way to satisfy all. Regular rural homeowners have less rules than the STR's have to abide by. It is a no ending problem and ends up being a police state. Commercial activities are not allowed and yet someone has determined that STR's don't seem to apply as "commercial" even though they are managed from such distances. The upshot is Counties are using precious time and budget dollars to force a commercial activity in a rural residential designated area. STR complaints should be handled by owners of these properties. I have never seen a STR owner spend time helping with mowing paths that lead to the beach.

When I go to the county to ask to have no parking signs put up on one side of the street so that rescue vehicles can get by on the road in front of my house I am told to take pictures, get community members to write letters, etc. I have to prove the need.

The Oregon coast has many parks along the coast for visitors. They have restrooms, picnic areas, camp sites, parking lots, and safe access to the beach. The counties and cities have been careful to not close up street access to the beach in rural areas also, especially in the incorporated areas. Our rural community roads, parking abilities, beach access, etc. cannot handle commercial activities. As word spreads about our location and as parks become overcrowded, even drive-by tourists find their way here. Beach access is dangerous, people use the trails as bathrooms, renters drive from the homes they are renting to the scant parking places by the small beach trails creating inability for emergency vehicles to get through. Then, when one asks for no-parking signs along one side of the road county commissioners put the onus on local residences to police the areas and show pictures, and get neighbors to sign grievances . In effect, we become watchmen for our rural area, caused by Counties allowing commercial activities as a land use.

Thank you.

Sincerely.

Joanne Cornelius

